

LFC Requester: _____

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 2/4/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: H300 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Rep. Garcia
 Rep. Hernandez
 Rep. Little
 Rep. Johnson

Agency Name and Code Number: DFA-341

Sponsor: _____
 CARE & MANAGEMENT OF HORSES

Person Writing Analysis: George Hypolite

Short Title: _____

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	\$300	NR	GF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$52.5	\$52.5	\$105	R	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

House Bill 300 (HB300) aims to allocate funding for the care and management of free-roaming and domestic horses on tribal land in Cibola County, New Mexico, to ensure humane treatment and sustainable practices.

- Appropriation Details:
 - Amount: \$300,000.
 - Source: General fund.
 - Recipient: Department of Finance and Administration for distribution to the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments.
 - Expenditure Period: Fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

- Use of Funds:
 - Development and implementation of a herd management plan.
 - Administration of fertility control vaccines to mares.
 - Humane relocation of up to 60 excess free-roaming horses.
 - Organization of veterinary clinics to treat domestic horses, including gelding and vaccinations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB300 requires an upfront investment, which may lead to long-term fiscal benefits by addressing horse overpopulation and improving management practices.

- Expenditure of \$300,000 from the General Fund: HB300 appropriates this amount for the care and management of free-roaming and domestic horses on tribal land in Cibola County. This allocation will reduce the available funds in the state's General Fund for other purposes.

- Time-Limited Funding: The appropriation is designated for fiscal years 2027 through 2029. Any unspent funds at the end of fiscal year 2029 will revert to the general fund, ensuring unused resources are not permanently allocated.

- Long-Term Cost Savings: HB300's initiatives, including fertility-control vaccines and herd management plans, aim to sustainably reduce the population of free-roaming horses. This could lower future costs associated with overpopulation, such as environmental damage, resource depletion, and additional management expenses.

- Economic Benefits: The funding may support local veterinary clinics and other service

providers, thereby boosting the local economy in Cibola County.

- **Administrative Costs:** DFA and the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments may incur administrative costs to oversee and implement the programs outlined in the bill.
 - For DFA, the fiscal impact is primarily administrative and oversight-related rather than programmatic.
 - The appropriation flows through DFA to a council of governments, so DFA will need to ensure proper grant setup, fund release controls, monitoring, and closeout procedures consistent with DFA and state fiscal requirements.
 - Although the total dollar amount is modest, the multi-year expenditure window requires careful attention to encumbrance tracking, reversion timing, and compliance with allowable-use restrictions. No recurring obligation is created beyond FY29.
 - DFA anticipates this process to require 350 work hours (\$52,500 [\$150 per hr.]) per fiscal year until the appropriation is fully expended or the end of FY29.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Overall, HB300 has the potential to improve the management, health, and welfare of horse populations while addressing environmental and community concerns. However, its success will depend on the effective implementation and monitoring of the outlined programs across tribal lands.

- **Improved Horse Population Management:** The development and implementation of a herd management plan could lead to better control of free-roaming horse populations on tribal lands in Cibola County. Fertility control vaccines for mares may help prevent overpopulation, reducing strain on resources and the environment.
- **Humane Treatment of Horses:** HB300 emphasizes humane relocation of up to 60 excess free-roaming horses, ensuring ethical treatment of animals. Veterinary clinics will provide necessary care for domestic horses, including gelding and vaccinations, improving their health and welfare.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Managing horse populations could mitigate environmental degradation caused by overgrazing and competition for resources, benefiting the ecosystem on tribal lands.
- **Community Engagement and Support:** The bill may foster collaboration between the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, tribal communities, and local

stakeholders, enhancing community involvement in horse management efforts. The Indian Affairs Department should also be engaged to ensure state resource coordination in the process.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB300 will likely increase administrative responsibilities for the Department of Finance and Administration, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, and tribal authorities, requiring coordination, monitoring, and reporting to ensure successful implementation.

- Oversight by the Department of Finance and Administration: DFA will be responsible for managing the \$300,000 appropriation and ensuring the funds are used effectively for the intended purposes. This will require additional administrative resources and oversight mechanisms.
- Coordination with the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments: The council will need to develop and implement the herd management plan, organize veterinary clinics, and oversee the humane relocation of excess free-roaming horses. This will likely require increased staffing, planning, and logistical efforts.
- Collaboration with Tribal Authorities: Since HB300 focuses on tribal lands in Cibola County, administrative efforts will need to include coordination with tribal governments and communities to ensure the programs align with local needs and cultural considerations. This will likely require the involvement of the Indian Affairs Department.
- Monitoring and Reporting: The responsible entities will need to track expenditures and program outcomes to ensure compliance with the HB300's requirements. This includes monitoring the effectiveness of fertility-control vaccines, relocation efforts, and veterinary clinics.
- Potential Need for Expertise: The implementation of specialized programs, such as fertility control and herd management, may require hiring or contracting experts in veterinary medicine, wildlife management, and environmental science.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

- Measurable Outcomes: HB300 does not provide for reporting or identifying measurable outcomes to assess the success or replicability of the program.
 - HB300's success should be evaluated based on metrics such as the number of horses relocated, the effectiveness of fertility control measures, and the number of domestic horses treated at veterinary clinics.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A.

AMENDMENTS

N/A.